***Statement***

*Details of Financial Assistance Provided by the Central Government*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Scheme | Amount released under different schemes (Rupees in crores) | | | Average Annual Investment (Rupees in crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | |
| 1. | National Afforestation Programme (NAP) | 207.98 | 233.00 | 248.58 | 229.85 |
| 2. | Intregrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFP) | 24.08 | 54.06 | 32.60 | 36.91 |

**Supply of unpolluted water to Towns**

3730. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water of holy river Ganges is not only used for religious purposes, recreational uses such as bathing, boating and fishing but also serves as the source of water supply to many towns and cities; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to supply unpolluted water to towns and cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to ameliorate the water quality of river Ganga, various pollution abatement works are undertaken along the identified polluted stretches of the river. These works include (i) Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment (ii) Sewage treatment plant for treating the diverted sewage (iii) Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks (iv) Electric and/or improved wood based crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghat, (v) River front development works such as improvement of

bathing ghats, etc. and (vi) Other miscellaneous works like Afforestation, Public Participation etc. The State Water Utilities/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are to treat and disinfect drinking water to the extent necessary to make it physically chemically and bacteriologically fit for human consumption before supplying the same to the consumers. State water Utilities/ULBs are expected to monitor the quality of drinking water (physical, chemical, bacteriological parameters) regularly.

**Poaching in Andhra Pradesh**

3731. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any incident of poaching in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure such incident do not recur; and

(c) whether any separate cell has been set up to catch hold of those who indulge in poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Government, 7 and 22 poaching cases have been booked in Andhra Pradesh during 2006 and 2005 respectively. The steps taken to prevent incidences of poaching are as follows:

Steps taken at national level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that are used for committing wild life offence.